

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 112274
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY UNA:JFTEFFT

APPROVED BY UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

AF/S:DKEOGH

S/S:AWOTTO

-----170225Z 031389 /12

O 162333Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112274

EXDIS, FOR AMB YOUNG'S PARTY

FOL RPT LONDON 08025 ACTION SECSTATE WHITE HOUSE
NAIROBI LISBON TEHRAN CAPE TOWN LUSAKA 16 MAY 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08025

EXDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

LISBON FOR LAKE, S/P WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

TEHRAN FOR THE SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, SF, ZA, US, UK

SUBJECT: SMITH'S WARNING TO KAUNDA OF POSSIBLE
PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK

REF: STATE 110922

1. FCO HAS PROVIDED US WITH TEXTS OF MESSAGES SENT BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 112274

A) CALLAGHAN TO KAUNDA, B) CALLAGHAN TO IAN SMITH (VIA
AIR VICE MARSHAL HAWKINS) AND C) OWENS TO BOTHA, ON
MAY 15:

A) DEAR KENNETH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER ABUKT DR. DAVID OWEN'S
MESSAGE TO YOU. I AM SORRY NOT TO HAVE REPLIED EARLIER

BUT HE IS AT PRESENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND I WISHED TO CONSULT WITH HIM; THIS HAS TAKEN A LITTLE TIME.

YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT TO ASSUME THAT HIS MESSAGE WAS SENT WITH THE FULL AUTHORITY OF H. M. GOVERNMENT TO ALERT YOU IMMEDIATELY TO WHAT MR. SMITH HAD SAID, AND SO THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO JUDGE HOW SERIOUS THE RISK OF VIOLENCE WAS. WE ARE OURSELVES MAKING AN URGENT ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT AND I WILL ENSURE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE IMMEDIATELY OUR VIEWS.

I ENTIRELY SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND DO NOT THINK WE CAN LEAVE THE MATTER AT THAT. AS YOU KNOW I DO NOT NORMALLY CORRESPOND WITH MR. SMITH BUT IN DAVID OWEN'S ABSENCE I HAVE SENT HIM A STRONG MESSAGE SAYING THAT I WOULD UTTERLY CONDEMN ANY PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AND WARNING HIM OF THE GRIM CONSEQUENCES THAT ANY ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING WILL ENTAIL. I HAVE ALSO ASKED THAT A MESSAGE SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INDICATING MY VERY STRONG REACTION AND INVITING THEM TO URGE MR. SMITH TO DESIST FROM ANY ACTION SUCH AS MOUNTING A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE.

DAVID OWEN HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT THE SITUATION WHILST BOTH OF THEM HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE CENTO MEETING IN IRAN. IN HIS SPEECH AT CENTO HE MADE A DELIBERATE REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE RETURNS TOMORROW AND I WILL HAVE FURTHER TALKS WITH HIM AT ONCE TO SEE HOW THE LATEST INITIATIVE TO SECURE MAJORITY RULE CAN BE PRESSED AHEAD. I WILL THEN BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN, SO THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN THESE ANXIOUS DAYS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 112274

WITH WARM REGARDS, JIM CALLAGHAN.

B) QUOTE: I HAVE HEARD FROM DAVID OWEN ABOUT YOUR MESSAGE IN WHICH YOU WARNED THAT YOU MIGHT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE "PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES " AGAINST

"TERRORIST" CAMPS IN ZAMBIA. I MUST LEAVE YOU IN NO DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA. IT WOULD DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR THE PRESENT ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. IT WOULD ALSO LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF THE WAR, WITH ALL THAT THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A WHOLE.

I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THESE RISKS AND I URGE YOU TO WEIGH THEM MOST CAREFULLY. WE WOULD BE BOUND TO CONDEMN ANY PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES. JIM CALLAGHAN. UNQUOTE

C) QUOTE: I HAVE HAD A MESSAGE FROM MR. SMITH THAT

IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HE MAY "MOUNT PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES ACROSS THE RIVER AGAINST THE TERRORIST BASES" IN ZAMBIA.

WE HAVE WARNED HIM VERY CLEARLY OF THE SERIOUS DANGER THAT ANY ACTION OF THIS SORT WOULD LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF THE WAR. PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY AND I UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL BE MAKING A BROADCAST ON THE SUBJECT ON MONDAY.

I AM SURE YOU WOULD SHARE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT MR. SMITH MIGHT LAUNCH SUCH STRIKES.

IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESTRAIN HIM, OR AT LEAST ASK HIM TO WEIGH MOST CAREFULLY THE RISKS INVOLVED. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALSO FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO SEND A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO RHODESIA. DAVID OWEN. UNQUOTE

2. UK HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA HAS CONFIRMED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 112274

CALLAGHAN/KAUNDA LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO KAUNDA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AT 1530Z ON MAY 15.

SPIERS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE112274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFTEFFT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0167
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770551/aaaabsik.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc44be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 110922
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2499999
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITH'S WARNING TO KAUNDA OF POSSIBLE PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, SF, ZA, US, UK, (OWEN, DAVID), (SMITH, IAN), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES), (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: MAPUTO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc44be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009